

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Wednesday, December 23, 2015

Anjali Julka
Phone: 312.793.9635

Tom Austin
Phone: 815.395.6680

Unemployment Rates up in Most Metro Areas *Job Growth Continues to Lag*

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	November 2015	November 2014	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	5.4%	5.0%	0.4
Carbondale-Marion	6.9%	6.3%	0.6
Champaign-Urbana	5.7%	5.3%	0.4
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	5.2%	5.8%	-0.6
Danville	7.7%	7.3%	0.4
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	5.8%	5.8%	0.0
Decatur	7.6%	7.4%	0.2
Elgin	6.1%	5.9%	0.2
Kankakee	7.2%	6.9%	0.3
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	5.6%	5.5%	0.1
Peoria	7.1%	6.3%	0.8
Rockford	7.5%	7.2%	0.3
Springfield	5.7%	5.5%	0.2
St. Louis (IL-Section)	6.7%	6.5%	0.2
Illinois Statewide	5.8%	6.0%	-0.2

* Data subject to revision.

CHICAGO – Unemployment rates increased in 12 metro areas, decreased in one and was unchanged in one. Eight metro areas across the state saw job loss compared to a year ago, according to preliminary data released today by the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Not seasonally adjusted data compares November 2015 with November 2014.

Illinois businesses lost jobs in eight metro areas including Carbondale-Marion (-1.8 percent, -1,000), Quad Cities (-1.7 percent, -3,200), and Lake-Kenosha (-1.5 percent, -6,300). Illinois businesses added jobs in six metros, in which the largest increases were seen in: Elgin (+2.0 percent, +5,000), Champaign-Urbana (+1.5 percent, +1,700), Danville (+1.4 percent, +400), and Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division (+1.3 percent or +46,900). The industry sectors recording job growth in the majority of metros were: Transportation, Warehousing and Public Utilities (nine of 14), Leisure and Hospitality (eight of 14), and Education and Health Services (eight of 14).

“While the increase in unemployment rates will garner most of the headlines, more troubling is Illinois’ extremely low employment growth rate this past year,” said IDES Director Jeff Mays. “Out of 102 counties in Illinois, 96 remain below their pre-recession 2007 peak employment levels.”

The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 5.8 percent in November 2015 and stood at 12.2 percent at its peak in this economic cycle in January 2010. Nationally, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.8 percent in November and 10.6 percent in January 2010 at its peak. The unemployment rate identifies those who are out of work and looking for work, and is not tied to collecting unemployment insurance benefits.

Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – November 2015

Metropolitan Area	November 2015*	November 2014**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	96,400	95,500	900
Carbondale-Marion MSA	55,100	56,100	-1,000
Champaign-Urbana MSA	111,800	110,100	1,700
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,672,800	3,625,900	46,900
Danville MSA	29,800	29,400	400
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	181,400	184,600	-3,200
Decatur MSA	51,000	51,600	-600
Elgin Metro Division	260,000	255,000	5,000
Kankakee MSA	45,900	46,100	-200
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	400,200	406,500	-6,300
Peoria MSA	179,600	180,100	-500
Rockford MSA	152,300	152,600	-300
Springfield MSA	113,500	112,100	1,400
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	230,900	232,000	-1,100
Illinois Statewide	5,989,600	5,953,900	35,700

*Preliminary **Revised

- (continued) -

1088**15



Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates (percent) for Local Counties and Areas

	Nov- 15	Nov- 14	Over the Year Change
Rockford MSA			
Boone County	6.9%	6.5%	0.4
Winnebago County	7.6%	7.3%	0.3
Cities			
Belvidere City	8.4%	7.8%	0.6
Freeport City	8.2%	7.8%	0.4
Rockford City	9.1%	8.5%	0.6
Counties			
Bureau County	7.1%	6.4%	0.7
Carroll County	5.6%	5.0%	0.6
DeKalb County	5.9%	5.6%	0.3
Henry County	7.0%	6.1%	0.9
JoDaviess County	6.0%	5.3%	0.7
Kane County	6.1%	6.0%	0.1
Lee County	5.6%	5.5%	0.1
McHenry County	4.6%	5.1%	-0.5
Ogle County	6.7%	6.4%	0.3
Stephenson County	6.9%	6.7%	0.2
Whiteside County	6.7%	6.2%	0.5

Stephenson County

The November 2015 not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.9 percent compared to 6.7 percent in November 2014. For the month of November 2015, the number of people unemployed in the labor force was 1,500.

Total nonfarm employment fell (-200) compared to a year ago. Professional-Business Services (+100) and Government (+50) added the most jobs from November 2014. Financial Activities (-125), Leisure-Hospitality (-100), and Manufacturing (-75) sectors recorded the largest employment decline compared to one year ago.

Rockford MSA Highlights

Help Wanted

Area employers advertised for 6,600 positions in November and approximately 87 percent sought full-time employment, according to Help Wanted OnLine data compiled by the Conference Board. It is a global, independent business membership and research association. Employers actually need more workers than the help wanted advertising indicates because some industries, such as construction, typically do not advertise job openings.

Rockford MSA

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 7.5 percent in November 2015 from 7.2 percent in November 2014 as the number of people employed and unemployed in the labor force increased from a year ago. For the month of November, the estimated number of people unemployed in the labor force was 12,900.

Total nonfarm employment decreased (-300) compared to November 2014. Leisure-Hospitality (+300), Government (+200), Educational-Health Services (+100), and Transportation-Warehousing-Utilities (+100) reported payroll gains. Professional-Business Services (-500), Construction (-200), and Manufacturing (-200) industries recorded the largest declines compared to one year ago.

Ogle County

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 6.7 percent in November 2015 from 6.4 percent in November 2014. For the month of November 2015, the number of people unemployed in the labor force was 1,700.

Total nonfarm employment decreased (-75) compared to November 2014. The Construction (+50) and Manufacturing (+50) sectors added the most jobs over the year. The Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (-100) and Educational-Health Services (-50) sectors recorded the largest employment decline compared to one year ago.

Note:

- Monthly 2014 unemployment rates and total non-farm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February 2015, as required by the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Comments and tables distributed for prior metro area news releases should be discarded as any records or historical analysis previously cited may no longer be valid.

###